

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 041893 TOSEC 040170

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 041893 TOSEC 040170

NODIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM KISNAHSAS DTD 21 FEB 1976

QUOTE

S E C R E T KINSHASA 1547

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CF, AO, CG

SUBJECT: MPLA DELEGATION MEETS WITH MOBUTU'S EMISSARIES IN
BRAZZAVILLE

1. BISENGIMANA CALLED ME THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 20 TO SAY THAT HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO KEEP HIS APPOINTMENT ON FEBRUARY 21 WITH UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON, AS HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO GO TO BRAZZAVILLE. NETO HAD SENT A FIVE MAN DELEGATION, LED BY MPLA'S LUCIO LARA, TO BRAZZAVILLE AND HAD ASKED THAT THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED CONTACT TAKE PLACE IN THE CONGOLESE CAPITAL RATHER THAN IN KINSHASA.

2. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT THE ORIGINAL PLAN WAS FOR A SIGNLE MPLA EMISSARY TO SLIP INTO KINSHASA THIS WEEKEND AND TALK TO ONE OF MOBUTU'S REPRESENTATIVES. AS

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PAGE 02 STATE 041893 TOSEC 040170

BISENGIMANA EXPLAINED TO ME, THERE WOULD BE NO WAY

A FIVE MAN DELEGATION LED BY LARA WOULD BE ABLE TO SLIP
INTO KINSHASA.

3. LAST NIGHT'S NEWS ANNOUNCED THAT THE CONGOLESE FOREIGN
MINISTER HAD COME TO KINSHASA BY HELICOPTER FOR AN URGENT
MEETING WITH MOBUTU. SUBJECT UNSPECIFIED. I SURMISE THAT
HE BROUGHT NEWS OF THE MPLA REQUEST TO MEET IN BRAZZAVILLE
AND THAT MOBUTU FELT THAT HE HAD TO SEND HIS SENIOR ADVISOR
TO DEAL WITH LARA. NGUZA WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE RETURNED
TO KINSHASA LAST NIGHT (FEBRUARY 20), AND IF HE DID, I
WOULD GUESS THAT HE WILL MAKE THE TRIP ACROSS THE
RIVER TOO. WALKER UNQTE INGERSOLL

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